

MINUTES

Flood Plain Management Subcommittee
of the Water Resources Coordinating Council
(WRCC Established under Iowa Code Chapter 466B)

September 15, 2009
3 PM
Rebuild Iowa Office, Conference Room 2
Wallace Building
502 E. Ninth Street, 2nd Floor
Des Moines, IA 50319

Attendees - Subcommittee (* indicates telephonic participation)

IDNR: *Bill Ehm*
IDALS: *Susan Fenton for Chuck Gipp*
University of Iowa – Iowa Flood Center: *Larry Weber **
Iowa State University – Leopold Center: *Jeri Neal, alternate*
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: *Jerry Skalak**
IDOT: *Scott Marler*
NRCS: *alternate Marty Adkins*
IDED: *Jessica Montana*
RIO: *Ken Tow and alternate Susan Judkins*

Other Attendees:

Aaron Todd, RIO; Annette Mansheim, RIO; Susan Dixon, RIO; Emily Hajek, RIO; Duane Sand, Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation; Tom Cope, IARC; Julie Tallman*, City of Iowa City; Bill Friedland, House Democratic Caucus Staff; Vicky Stoller*, Two Rivers Levee & Drainage Association; Warren Kemper, Iowa Corn Growers and Levee District #11; Nate Bennett, ISAC; Rich Siegle, Louisa/Des Moines County Drainage District #4; Ken Oetken, Iowa River Flint Creek Levee District #16, Des Moines County Drainage District #8, Two Rivers Levee & Drainage Association. Other attendees may have participated by phone.

1. The minutes of the 7/13/09 Subcommittee meeting were approved.
2. Work Group leaders or staff reviewed recommendations pursuant to [HF756](#), which requires the Water Resources Coordinating Council to make policy and funding recommendations to reduce the impact of flooding, including but not limited to the issues assigned to work groups:
 - a. [Work Group 1](#), Floodplain Regulation – reviewed by Susan Dixon (RIO) on behalf of chair Chuck Corell (DNR)
 - i. . Public Input: be sure to consider the economic impact of recommendations. Be sure to include buildings, materials and residences used to support farming as ag-related structures that are exempt from regulation.

- b. [Work Group 2](#), Lowlands (wetland protection, restoration and construction; and conservation easements and other land management) – reviewed by Chair Marty Adkins (NRCS) and Duane Sand (Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation)
 - i. Public Input: Recommend spelling out acronyms. A question was asked about what would constitute a poorly designed levee; Adkins responded “perhaps accidental levees” such as exist in Western Iowa and the Skunk River Basin. The NRCS practice standards would be a place to start.
- c. [Work Group 3](#), Uplands (perennial ground cover and other agricultural conservation practices; and permanent or temporary water retention structures) – reviewed by Susan Judkins (RIO) on behalf of Tom Oswald (HSEMD)
 - i. Public Input: In response to a question about storm frequency, Weber suggested the proposal for a pilot project could be used to analyze this. He said some flash flooding in Palo ten days ago demonstrated that a “low tech” effort to contain flooding there did not work.
- d. [Work Group 4](#), Stormwater Management (promulgation and implementation of statewide stormwater management standards) – reviewed by Chair Jessica Montana (IDED)
 - i. Public Input: Drainage districts are managed differently, with different rules and regulations. Consider that the bill title of SF458 doesn’t reflect what it does, which is allow collection of a connection fee. IDOT bid terminology should be incorporated into stormwater manual concepts.

Ehm summarized the discussion. Many proposals would require legislative action before implementation, so there will be many opportunities for public input. Some changes could be made through administrative rules.

- 3. Water Resources Coordinating Council – the next meeting is scheduled for 9/18/09. Subcommittee Co-chairs Ehm and Gipp will describe the process used to generate draft recommendations, and Work Group chairs or designees will review their group’s recommendations. The Subcommittee will be asking the Water Resources Coordinating Council to authorize holding six public input sessions, and having the Rebuild Iowa Office publicize them. The sessions are tentative planned as follows:

9/29/09	Mount Pleasant Civic Center, 307 East Monroe Street, 2-4 PM West Branch, Hoover Library and Museum, 210 Parkside Drive, 6-8 PM
10/6/09	Ankeny, Public Services Building, 220 W. 1st Street, Conf. Room 10 AM-Noon Waverly Civic Center, 200 E. 1st St. NE, 5-7 PM
10/8/09	Lewis, Wallace Foundation Learning Center, Armstrong Research Farm, 10 AM-Noon Storm Lake, Sunrise Pointe Municipal Golf Course, 4-6 PM

- 4. Next Meeting -- Next subcommittee meeting tentatively scheduled for 10/13/09.
- 5. Adjournment - Meeting adjourned at 5:10 PM.

For additional information, contact Susan Judkins Josten, Intergovernmental Affairs Director, Rebuild Iowa Office, 515-242-5503, susan.judkins@rio.